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*John J. Kelly, Jr.*

John J. Kelly, Jr. Reg. No.: 29,182



Examiner : Vanessa T. Velasquez  
Art Unit : 1793  
Docket No. : 52433/859  
Conf. No. : 4507

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : H. ASAHI et al.

Serial No. : 10/588,837

Filing Date : August 8, 2006

For : STEEL PLATE OR STEEL PIPE WITH SMALL OCCURRENCE OF BAUSCHINGER EFFECT AND METHODS OF PRODUCTION OF SAME

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

SIR:

This is in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed September 9, 2008.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants elect the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 1 to 12 directed to a steel plate or steel pipe, for further prosecution in this application.

This election is made without prejudice to the filing of a divisional patent application directed to the non-elected claims.

Applicants maintain that JP 2000-212680 does not disclose or suggest the present invention.